



Waushara County hunting preserve ordered to pay civil forfeiture in CWD case

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MADISON -- A Waushara County hunting preserve agreed to a civil forfeiture for failing to test hunter-killed deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD). The non-compliance was first identified in 2010, the State Veterinarian's office said today.

In a plea agreement with Waushara County, Kevin Schmid, owner of Little Texas, LLC, accepted a plea of no contest for failing to test the appropriate number of animals for CWD as set forth in ATCP 10.52(1m). Schmid has been ordered to pay Waushara County Circuit Court \$5,000 plus court costs and fees.

"CWD surveillance is a priority for this department so the rules exist for a good reason," said State Veterinarian Dr. Paul McGraw. "Testing is required so that we can detect CWD early enough to protect both the farm raised deer and wild deer."

At the time the offense took place, Wisconsin required 100 percent of farm-raised deer 16 months of age or older to be tested for CWD that are killed or die naturally on the premises. During a routine inspection, it was determined that Schmid had not been testing all hunter killed deer, tests that should have been completed. Since this failure to test was identified, this farm has come into compliance with testing requirements.

"Our animal health laws are in place to protect animal health and the industry," McGraw said. "In general, we have had great compliance with these laws from the farm raised deer industry, which ensures the risk of CWD on farms is very low. When a farm fails to follow the law, we take it seriously."

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